

JUN 08 2006

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1752

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

ADRIAN LUNGU

CASE NO.: IM1303 US NA

APPLICATION NO.: 09/839,803

GROUP ART UNIT: 1752

FILED: APRIL 20, 2001

EXAMINER: AMANDA C. WALKER

CONFIRMATION NO.: 2560

FOR: A PHOTOPOLYMERIZABLE ELEMENT FOR USE AS A
FLEXOGRAPHIC PRINTING PLATEREQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATIONCommissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Rejection dated April 18, 2006, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3 through 19 and 31 through 33 as being unpatentable over Araki et al. (JP 59-211036) in view of Applicant's admission, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), is respectfully traversed. Claims 1 and 33 define a photopolymerizable element for use as a flexographic printing plate comprising a support and a photopolymerizable elastomeric layer on the support. The photopolymerizable layer comprises a binder, at least one monomer, a photoinitiator, an onium salt and a leuco dye. Claim 1 defines a photopolymerizable element wherein the onium salt is present in greater reactive amount than the leuco dye and is selected from the group consisting of phosphonium salts, selenonium salts, triarylselenonium salts, iodonium salts, diaryliodonium salts, sulfonium salts, triarylsulphonium salts, dialkylphenacylsulphonium salts, triarylsulphoxonium salts, aryloxydiarylsulphoxonium salts, dialkylphenacylsulphoxonium salts, and combinations thereof. In use, the photopolymerizable layer is imagewise exposed to actinic radiation forming polymerized and unpolymerized portions in the layer, and also backflash exposed through the support to actinic radiation to form a floor. The imagewise exposed layer is then treated to remove the

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